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File No. 16051-9US CC

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**RECEIVED
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Applicants: Andrew VAILLANT et al.
Serial number: 10/661,088
Filing date: September 12, 2003
For: ANTIVIRAL OLIGONUCLEOTIDES TARGETING HBV
Art Unit: 1648
Examiner: Bo, PENG
Agent: Cawthorn, Christian

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
U. S. A.

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 17, 2006 in connection with the above-identified patent application, please consider the following remarks. This response is being filed concurrently with a petition for a 1-month extension of time.

In response to the Outstanding Restriction Requirement, Applicants elect Group II, drawn to claims 3 and 11-32 for prosecution. The Applicants also elect the species of the oligonucleotide REP 2006, phosphorothioated linkage (in claims 18-24) and 2'-O-methyl modification to the ribose moiety (in claim 21). In addition, the Applicants wish to specify that

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the elected oligonucleotide is a monomer (relevant to claim 25). The Applicants also elect the specie consisting of an antiviral pharmaceutical composition adapted for delivery by injection.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this Response, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 14, 2006

By: 

Christian Cawthorn, Reg. No. 47,352
Agent for Applicants

OGILVY RENAULT LLP
1981 McGill College, Suite 1600
Montreal, Quebec H3A 2Y3
CANADA

Tel: (514) 847-4256

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I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the
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Christian Cawthorn
Name of person signing certification


Signature

March 14, 2006
Date